

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below in the complete listing of claims.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface comprising the steps of heating a cleaning solution with an exothermic chemical reaction, applying the heated cleaning solution to the surface to clean the surface and recovering soiled cleaning solution from the surface.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 1 and further comprising the step of activating a chemical compound or combination of chemical compounds to undergo an exothermic chemical reaction prior to the heating step.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 2 wherein the exothermic chemical reaction comprises a phase change in a compound or composition that generates heat when transforming from one phase to another phase.

4. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 3 wherein the phase change is from a liquid to a solid.

5. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 4 wherein the compound or composition is a sodium acetate solution.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 5 wherein the activation step includes introducing an aluminum metal or alloy into the sodium acetate solution.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 4 wherein the activation step includes introducing a metal into the liquid.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 3 wherein the phase change is from one solid phase to another phase.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 2, wherein the exothermic chemical reaction comprises the step of combining two or more reagents that, when combined, undergo an exothermic reaction.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 9 wherein the two or more reagents include a base and an acid that undergo an exothermic reaction when combined.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 10 wherein the acid is a mild acid that is added to the cleaning solution prior to the combining step and that lowers the pH of the cleaning solution to less than 7.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 11 wherein the mild acid is a stearic acid.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 12 wherein the stearic acid reduces the pH of the cleaning solution ~~in the solution tank~~ to the range of 4-5 prior to the combining step.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 13 wherein the base is triethanolamine.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 14 wherein the triethanolamine is in a solution that has a pH in the range of 8-9.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 12 wherein the base is triethanolamine.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 11 wherein the mild acid reduces the pH of the cleaning solution ~~in the solution tank~~ to the range of 4-5 prior to the combining step.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 17 wherein the base is in a solution that has a pH in the range of 8-9 and is added to the cleaning solution that includes the mild acid to initiate the exothermic reaction.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 18 wherein the reaction product of the ~~weak-mild~~ acid and the ~~weak~~-base is a surfactant that becomes part of the cleaning solution.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 10 wherein the reaction product of the acid and the base is a surfactant that becomes part of the cleaning solution.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 10 wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of stearic acid, citric acid and phosphoric acids.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 21 wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of diethanolamine, triethanolamine, sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 10 wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of diethanolamine, triethanolamine, sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 9 wherein the heat of the exothermic reaction is transferred indirectly to the cleaning solution.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 9 wherein the heat of the exothermic reaction is transferred directly to the cleaning solution.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 9 wherein the two or more reagents are aluminum and a reactant caustic compound.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 9 wherein the two or more reagents include a supercorroding metal alloy.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 1 wherein the heat of the exothermic reaction is transferred indirectly to the cleaning solution.

29. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface according to claim 1 wherein the heat of the exothermic reaction is transferred directly to the cleaning solution.

30-58. (Withdrawn from consideration)

59-63 (Cancelled).

64. (Currently Amended) The method of cleaning a surface according to claim 1 wherein the heating, applying and recovering steps take place in an ~~common-cleaning~~
~~fool~~extractor.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of cleaning a surface according to claim 64 wherein the recovery step includes suction.

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Previously Presented) The method of cleaning a surface according to claim 1 wherein the recovery step includes suction.

68. (Cancelled)